

RECORD OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

Due to drought conditions in the 2003 grazing season, the Jackies Butte grazing permittees were not authorized to turn out their full permitted cattle numbers. After much consultation and cooperation between the affected permittees, interested publics, and agency personnel, the permittees were authorized to turn out the remainder of their permitted cattle numbers later in the grazing season. This resulted in fewer animal unit months (AUMs) of forage being removed from the allotment than usual. Thus, unused forage was present in the last pasture scheduled for use during the 2003 grazing season and a subsequent grazing application for temporary nonrenewable grazing (TNR) was received from the permittees.

The environmental consequences of this action have been fully analyzed in environmental assessment (EA) OR-030-04-001. The EA was posted on the Vale District website and a Notice of Proposed Action was published in the Argus Observer on October 24, 2003. The EA was also mailed to various interested publics and no comments were received.

DECISION

After careful review of EA OR-030-04-001 and completion of a Finding of No Significant Impact, it is my decision to implement the proposed action of the EA and authorize 953 dry cows to graze 2,194 AUM's of TNR in the Rome South Pasture of the Jackies Butte Allotment (#01101). This action is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (September 2002).

RATIONALE

The authorization of TNR will not cause detrimental affects to the vegetation because it will occur outside of the growing season when plants are quiescent. This TNR grazing authorization is for a one time shift of grazing use outside of the normal permitted grazing dates. Though the grazing use is outside the normal permitted use dates, it will be within the same season of use, therefore there will be no greater impact to the resources present.

Average utilization of the Rome South Pasture will not exceed 40%. Actual AUMs utilized within the Jackies Butte Summer Allotment will be less than the total permitted AUMs. Grazing use will merely be made at a slightly different time (fall/winter), during the same grazing season.

Values such as primitiveness, unconfined recreation, solitude, species diversity, scenery, etc will still be available to the public and not affected by the proposed action. Soils, air quality, noxious weeds, wildlife, special status plant species, recreation, cultural resources, and areas of critical environmental concerns will not be affected.

I have determined that this TNR grazing authorization is a reasonable action, and no impacts were identified that will significantly affect any aspect of the resources present.

s/Suzie Manezes

November 10, 2003

Suzie Manezes, Acting Field Manager, Jordan Resource Area

Date

